Do's and Don't of Sharps Disposal

- ☑ Do keep sharps containers closed between uses and out of reach of children and pets.
- Do dispose of the entire container at City Hall or the Health Department.
- □ Don't bring loose needles or lancets.
- ☑ Don't put sharps containers, loose needles or lancets in your recycling bin, garbage or down the toilet.

Information for Newton businesses & residents of other communities

- Sharps from businesses will not be accepted at the drop-off locations.
- Businesses should contract with a sharps disposal company.
- For a list of sharps disposal companies, visit www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/hazardous/medical.htm
- For a list of sharps disposal location in other MA communities, visit:

www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/aids/needles-syringes-disposal.pdf

More Questions?

City of Newton



(617) 796-1420 www.newtonma.gov

City of Newton Health and Human Services Department Department of Public Works

Safe Sharps Disposal



How to safely dispose of household sharps in Newton

What are household sharps?

Needles and lancets used at home to inject medicine into people or pets.

Why is household sharps disposal important?

Properly disposing of sharps helps keep potentially harmful products out of the waste stream.

A new state law takes effect July 1, 2012 that prohibits people from disposing of needles and lancets in the trash.

How do I store used sharps until disposal?

- Place sharps in a red medical waste container or other puncture proof container such as a detergent bottle. You can buy a red container at your local pharmacy.
- ☑ Use the container until it is nearly full and then tightly close the lid.
- ☑ Reinforce the lid with tape so sharps won't spill out.
- ☑ There is no time limit for keeping containers. It is best to nearly fill them to make this program cost effective.

Where do I take my household sharps?

2 Drop-off Locations Available Newton Residents Only

8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday—Friday, excluding holidays Tuesdays until 8 p.m.

Newton Health Department
1294 Centre St., Newton Centre
or
Newton City Hall

Newton City Hall

1000 Commonwealth Avenue

Main Level, Customer Service

When you arrive at Customer Service or the Health Department, let a staff member know you want to drop off sharps. The staff person will walk you to the sharps storage area and ask you to place your container in the box.

For everyone's safety, sharps will not be accepted unless they are in a red medical waste or sturdy plastic container such as a detergent bottle.

Milk jugs, coffee cans (due to the flimsy plastic lid), and other thin plastic bottles are <u>unacceptable</u>.

